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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Mediation Training Offered for Court Volunteers

(Phoenix, Ariz. – Feb. 6, 2007) The Attorney General's Office Civil Rights Division, in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Court, is offering 40-hour mediation courses free of charge throughout the state to train volunteers to help resolve local court disputes.

Mediators are neutral parties who try to help disputing parties reach agreements in various cases. Mediation is a valuable alternative to litigation, often saving time and money and reducing stress. It also reduces the heavy caseloads facing the courts.

Training courses are open to the public. In exchange for the free training, those who successfully complete the course must agree to mediate a certain number of disputes for the court on a volunteer basis. Each court has its own requirements and application procedures to become a volunteer mediator. Disputes to be mediated can include small claims, commercial, truancy and other cases, depending on the court program. The Attorney General's Office has been training mediators for the courts since 1984 and has its own volunteer mediation program for resolving civil rights cases.

The 40-hour mediation training will be offered at the following locations on the dates listed:

- Kingman, Mohave County: February 22, 23, 28; March 1, 2
- Tucson, Pima County: April 9, 10, 11, 16, 17
- St. Johns, Apache County: May 2, 3, 4, 10, 11
- Casa Grande, Pinal County: May 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 ***Revised dates***
- Phoenix, Maricopa County: June 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 ***Revised dates***

Training sessions will begin each day at 8:30 a.m. with a working lunch and end at 4:30 p.m. Participants must complete all five days of scheduled training to become eligible to mediate for the courts. Please note that most courts require volunteers to successfully complete an application process, which includes background checks, to be accepted as a volunteer.

If you are interested in registering for one of these training sessions or have any questions, please contact Garrett Hoover, Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator, in the Civil Rights Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office. He can be reached by phone at (602) 542-7767. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

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